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## A FREE-BED FUND

FOR THE

# WASHINGTONIAN HOME.

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THIS Institution, organized in 1857 and incorporated in 1859, came into existence as a necessity. Its founders, while recognizing the efficiency of the total abstinence pledge in reclaiming thousands of inebriates, also knew there were other thousands who needed medical aid, temporary shelter, kindly attention to their physical necessities, and moral support and encouragement to enable them to contend successfully against the agonizing reaction that was sure to follow a sudden and total deprivation of their accustomed stimulus. To afford these necessary agencies the Home was established in one little room on Fulton Street, with a cash capital of a few dollars. Here came into existence the first institution in the world devoted exclusively to the reformation of inebriates. From the beginning it has been a growing success, and its beneficent effects have been so widely apparent as to have induced the organization of similar institutions in many of our sister States.

During the last eighteen years over 5,000 patients have been treated at the Home, representing every trade, profession, and all classes in society. Its doors have always been open to all comers, and if any distinction has been made, the warmest welcome has been extended to poverty and weakness.

For several years the State furnished material aid, ranging from \$3,000 to \$6,000 annually, which enabled us to take nearly

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as many free patients as applied. More than 2,000 have been of this class, the balance paying for their treatment in full or in part as their circumstances permitted. About four years ago the State, for prudential reasons that demanded retrenchment, withdrew its annual subsidy from this alike with other institutions, and threw us entirely upon our own resources.

The generous citizens of Boston, by donations and legacies, have enabled the Institution to change its location several times, each to larger and better accommodations, until, aided by judicious investments and economy, it has found a permanent abiding place in the large and substantial edifice now occupied at No. 41 Waltham Street, which, including the furnishing and land, cost over \$100,000, leaving a net indebtedness of about \$10,000. One or two special legacies have provided a small fund to aid free patients, but not large enough to meet the needs of our applicants. What, then, shall we do? We cannot turn the poor and worthy inebriate from our doors, but must succor him at all hazards, either by running our institution further into debt, or by appealing to the philanthropic and generous citizens of Boston for the necessary means to carry on our humane and beneficent work.

The success of the Home thus far, is its best appeal to our charitable fellow-citizens to furnish us with financial aid towards establishing a permanent and liberal fund for the sole benefit of poor and friendless inebriates. We venture to assert that no humane institution in the United States can exhibit a more careful and economic application of its funds than this, either in the investment of its real estate, or in its internal management. The names of its trustees are a guarantee that no misuse will be made of its funds in their hands.

At the last meeting of the corporation it was voted to establish three free beds for those who wish to enter the Home, but have not the means, and the Executive Committee were authorized to raise by subscription the necessary funds. It is estimated that each free bed, with board, and proper care for its patients for a

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year, will cost the income of \$4,000. Thus twenty patients could be provided for, relieved, or cured, for an average sum of fourteen dollars each, not counting any interest on the cost of the building. The Free-Bed Fund would, alike with all other of its funds, be placed in the hands of the trustees, and the income only would be used by the Executive Committee in defraying the running expenses of the Home incurred by the superintendent, which are under the constant supervision of that committee. Such beds provided for by the special fund will be sacredly reserved for the reception of the poor and penitent who seek here to reform.

Having refrained from appealing to the charitable public or individuals in any way for many years, we feel the more confidence in our present necessity, of a prompt response to this appeal for a contribution to a most worthy object and true charity, which, by the law of kindness, charity, and human sympathy (ineffectual by other means) raises the fallen by influences peculiar to the Home, and restores the man to society and to friends.

#### *EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.*

OTIS CLAPP.

WM. WILKINS WARREN.

JOSEPH STORY.

W. F. WENTWORTH.

SOLOMON B. STEBBINS. W. F. SHAW.

L. TAYLOR.

#### *TRUSTEES.*

OTIS CLAPP.

WM. B. SPOONER.

S. B. STEBBINS.

Subscriptions and donations will be thankfully received by Mrs. R. K. POTTER, 625 Tremont Street, or by OTIS CLAPP, No. 1 Beacon Street, who will publicly acknowledge receipts of the same.

*Your contribution is earnestly solicited.*

